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sponsible for the strange fact that American students, working on the comparative method, whether in law, or politics or economics, are always drawing parallels or contrasts between English and French or German or Spanish or Italian conditions and neglecting the more obvious use to be made of Scottish history. This has been particularly true so far in the field of economic history.

The student of English economic history is perfectly familiar with the workings of the English staple and, if he hears of a Scottish staple, assumes it to be the same kind of thing. "The English staple was developed in order to concentrate trade and with the object of facilitating the collection of customs duties" (p. 337, 338). "It was thus to a large extent a fiscal device" (p. 339). "The object kept in view was the increase of revenue, rather than the privilege of merchants or the general welfare of trade" (p. 340). "The exclusion of foreigners from the trade was no essential feature in the system" (p. 340). "In the Scottish staple on the contrary, the attitude to the foreign trader was one of rigid exclusion. The development of the nation's trade, or rather the prosperity of the merchant classes in the royal burghs, was the object kept in view by the Convention, and any participation in trade by unfreemen, by unfree burghs, or by foreign merchants, was regarded as taking away some portion of that trade, which, in the view of the Convention was the right of freemen of the free burghs." These quotations show the essential thesis of the book and draw out a very interesting contrast between English and Scottish economic history.

But, though the Scottish staple is the main subject of the book, the authors have dealt with the whole question of the organization of Scottish trade. In doing so they have brought out the importance of the Convention of Royal Burghs and its services and drawbacks to the development of Scottish prosperity. There is nothing like this in English history. Most interesting, though not of the same importance to the student, is the account given of the life of the Scottish mercantile colony at Veere or Campvere in the Netherlands, of their church and factory, of the powers of the Conservator, and the conditions of their existence. The book is well illustrated with views of old Veere and does honor to the industry and intelligence of the late Professor John Davidson of the University of New Brunswick and of Mr. Alexander Gray, who has completed the work from Professor Davidson's notes.

H. MORSE STEPHENS.

Berkeley, Cal.

Devine, E. T. *Report on the Desirability of Establishing an Employment Bureau in the City of New York.* Pp. 238. Price, \$1.25. New York: Charities Publishing Company, 1909.

This report considers the advisability of establishing an employment bureau on a business basis, but by philanthropic men whose purpose it is to make

such a bureau a genuinely effective agency for the remedy of unemployment. The report reviews the attempts of both public and commercial employment bureaus to distribute labor and to find work for the unemployed. The inadequacy of these agencies is clearly shown, the former suffering from political interference and the latter being quite unreliable as well as disreputable to a considerable extent. Charitable employment bureaus have not been successful.

The report itself is very brief, the larger portion of the book consisting of appendices comprising material germane to the subject. The replies to letters of inquiry regarding the existence of unemployment and the need of such a bureau show how little accurate knowledge on the subject we actually possess at the present time. More information is a prerequisite for successful work of this character. The investigation of newspaper "want ads" brings to light very interesting information both in respect to the methods of advertisers and of newspapers, and the experience of an investigator in trying to get work illustrates the seriousness of the problem of unemployment during the last winter. "Trade Unions as Employment Agencies" is another valuable appendix. In fact the various appendices furnish very useful material for reference purposes on the general subject of unemployment.

The report favors the establishment of an employment bureau as outlined above. Its success is a question regarding which the reader must suspend judgment. Unless the hearty co-operation of laborers and employers can be gained and all distrust vanquished the experiment will hardly be satisfactory.

GEORGE B. MANGOLD.

St. Louis, Mo.

Holdsworth, W. S. *History of English Law.* 3 Vols. Pp. 1564. Price, \$4.00 each. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.

Various phases of English law have been the subject of detailed historical study but the lack of a general survey induced the author, the vice-president of Saint John's College, Oxford, to attempt this comprehensive work. Every student of comparative institutions will welcome the addition which the volumes make to our knowledge of English jurisprudence. The first volume, which originally appeared in 1903, sketches the framework within which the law acts—the courts and their jurisdictions during the various periods. Most constitutional questions in England have been fought out in the law courts and the political side has often been emphasized by the historians almost to the exclusion of the legal standpoint. Mr. Holdsworth emphasizes the juristic side of these cases to show the development of the laws as a system rather than their social-historical significance.

The last two volumes deal with the various branches of the law itself. Here the social and historical factors of necessity become more prominent. In part the treatment is chronological and in part by topics—